

State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956.

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The State Bank of Pakistan Act 1956

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1-PRELIMINARY

SECTIONS

1. Short title, extent and commencement
2. Definitions

CHAPTER II- ESTABLISHMENT, INCORPORATION AND SHARE CAPITAL OF THE BANK

3. Establishment and incorporation of the Bank
4. Share Capital
5. Guarantee by Federal Government
6. Notice of trust
7. Register of shareholders

CHAPTER III- MANAGEMENT

8. Officer, Branches and Agencies
9. Central Board of Directors
- 9A. Functions and responsibilities of the Central Board
- 9B. Monetary and Fiscal Policies Coordination Board
10. Governor and Deputy Governors
11. Executive Committee
12. Local Boards, their constitution and functions
13. Qualifications and disqualification's of Directors and Members
14. Term of Office of Directors and Members
- 14A. Bar to Certain Proceeding (Omitted).
15. Removal from and vacation of Office of the Governor, Deputy Governors, Directors and Members
16. General and Annual General Meetings

CHAPTER IV- BUSINESS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BANK

SECTIONS

17. Business which the Bank may transact
- 17A. Rural Credit Fund
- 17B. Industrial Credit Fund
- 17C. Export Credit Fund
- 17D. Loans Guarantee Fund

- 17E. Housing Credit Fund
- 17F. Contributions and donations by the Bank
18. Power of direct discount
19. Declaration of approved foreign exchange
20. Business which the Bank may not transact
21. Government Business
22. Bank rate
23. Obligation to buy or sell foreign exchange
24. Sole right to issue Bank Notes
25. Legal tender
26. Issue Department
27. Denominations and form of Bank Notes
28. Reissue of notes
29. Lost, stolen, mutilated or imperfect notes
30. Assets of the Issue Department
31. Suspensions of assets requirements
32. Liabilities of the Issue Departments
33. Obligation to supply different forms of currency
34. Obligation of the Federal Government in respect of rupee coin
35. Offences and penalties relating to unauthorised issue of Bills and Bank Notes
36. Cash reserve of scheduled banks to be kept with the Bank
37. Scheduled Banks
38. Power to require returns from Corporations
39. Publication of consolidated statements by the Bank
40. Returns
41. Contribution by the Federal Government to the Reserve Fund
42. Allocation of Surplus
43. Auditors
44. Government Auditors
45. Power and Duties of Auditors
46. The Bank and its Officers to be public officers
- 46A. Production of unpublished record of Bank, etc.
- 46B. Inconsistent Directives not be issued
47. Pensions of Bank employees to be exempt from attachments, etc.
48. Exemption from Stamp Duty
49. Exemption from Income Tax, Super-Tax and Business Profits-Tax and Provision for Deductions at Source of Income Tax on Dividends
50. Liquidation of the Bank
51. Act or Proceeding of the Central Board not to be questioned
52. Powers of Government to Supersede the Central Board
53. Duty of officers and servants to maintain secrecy
54. Powers of Central Board to make regulations
- 54A. Provisions to override other laws
- 54B. Removal of difficulties
55. Repeal

The State Bank of Pakistan Act 1956
Act No. XXXIII of 1956

An Act To Provide For The Establishment
Of The State Bank Of Pakistan

WHEREAS it is necessary to provide for the constitution of a State Bank to regulate the monetary and credit system of Pakistan and to foster its growth in the best national interests with a view to securing monetary stability and fuller utilisation of the country's productive resources;

It is hereby enacted as follows: -

CHAPTER I
PRELIMINARY

Short title, extent and commencement

1.- (1) This Act may be cited as the State Bank of Pakistan Act, 1956.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force at once and except Section 46, shall be deemed to have taken effect on and from the twelfth day of May, 1948.

Definitions

2.- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

(a) "annual general meeting" means the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank;

(b) "approved foreign exchange" means currencies declared as such by any notification under Section 19;

(c) "the Bank" means the State Bank of Pakistan;

(d) "Bank Notes" means notes made and issued by the Bank in accordance with Section 24 and include currency notes of the Government of Pakistan issued by the Bank;

(e) "Central Board" means the Central Board of Directors of the Bank;

(f) "Co-operative Bank" means a society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, or any other law for the time being in force in Pakistan relating to co-operative societies, the primary object of which is to provide financial accommodation to its members;

(ff) "debentures" includes participation term certificates;

(g) "Director" means a Director for the time being of the Central Board;

- (h) "general meeting" means the meeting of the shareholders of the Bank convened for transacting such business as may be specified in the notice convening the meeting;
- (i) "Governor" and "Deputy Governors" means respectively the Governor and Deputy Governors of the Bank;
- (ii) "loans and advances" includes finances provided on the basis of participation in profit and loss, mark up in price, leasing, hire-purchase of otherwise.
- (j) "Local Board" means a Local Board of Members;
- (k) "Member" means a Member for the time being of a Local Board;
- (l) "rupee coin" means one-rupee coin and one-rupee notes which are legal tender in Pakistan;
- (m) "scheduled bank" means a bank for the time being included in the list of banks maintained under sub-section (1) of Section 37;
- (n) "securities" includes securities as defined in the Capital Issues (Continuance of Control) Act, 1947 (XXIX of 1947);
- (o) "shares" includes modaraba certificates.

CHAPTER II ESTABLISHMENT, INCORPORATION AND SHARE CAPITAL OF THE BANK

Establishment and incorporation of the Bank

3. – (1) As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act steps shall be taken to establish, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, a bank to be called the State Bank of Pakistan or Bank Daulat-e-Pakistan, for the purposes of taking over, as from the first day of July, 1948, the management of the currency from the reserve Bank of India, and carrying on the business of Central Banking.

(2) The Bank shall be a body corporate by the name of the State Bank of Pakistan or Bank Daulat-e-Pakistan, having perpetual succession and a common seal, and shall by the said name sue and be sued.

Share Capital

4. – (1) The original share capital of the Bank shall be three crores of rupees divided into three hundred thousand fully paid-up shares of the nominal value of one hundred rupees each, out of which not less than fifty-one per cent shall be held by the Federal Government and the balance by the public.

(2) The share capital may be increased by a resolution of the Central Board subject to the approval of the Federal Government, but not less than fifty-one per cent of the additional share capital shall be issued to the Federal Government.

(3) The nominal value, issue price, the manner in which the new shares may be issued and allotted and their assignment to the registers of shareholders maintained under sub-section (1) of Section 7 shall, subject to the approval of the Federal Government, be determined by the Central Board.

Guarantee by Federal Government

5. – Notwithstanding anything contained in the Acts hereinafter mentioned in this Section, the shares of the Bank shall be deemed to be included among the securities enumerated in Section 20 of the Trusts Act, 1882 and to be approved securities for the purposes of the Insurance Act, 1938 and the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962).

Notice of Trust

6. – (1) No notice of any trust in respect of any share of the Bank shall be receivable by the Bank nor shall the Bank be bound by any such notice given, expressly or otherwise, nor shall the Bank be regarded as a trustee in respect of any such share.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Bank may, without any liability to the Bank, record in its books such directions given by the holder of a share for the payment of dividend or transfer or any other matter relating to such share as the Bank may think fit.

9A.1. Functions and responsibilities of the Central Board. The Central Board shall, in order to secure monetary stability and soundness of the financial systems;

(a) formulate and monitor monetary and credit policy and, in determining the expansion of liquidity, take into account the Federal Government's targets for growth and inflation and ensure that the Bank conducts monetary and credit policy in a manner consistent with these targets and the recommendations of the Monetary and Fiscal Policies Co-ordination Board with respect to macro-economic policy objectives:

Provided that the Governor may, in an emergency which in his opinion requires immediate action, take such measure as may be necessary in the circumstances and shall report such measure for the approval of the Central Board at its next meeting;

(b) determine and enforce, in addition to the overall expansion of liquidity, the limit of credit to be extended by the Bank to the Federal Government, Provincial Governments and other agencies of the Federal and Provincial Governments for all purposes, it being understood that the Governments will meet their additional credit requirement directly from commercial banks through market based auctioning system to be conducted by the Bank:

(c) approve the credit requirements of the private sector and intimate the same to the Monetary and fiscal Policies Co-ordination Board;

(d) tender advice to the Federal Government on the interaction of monetary policy with fiscal and exchange rate policy;

(e) analyse and advise the Federal Government on the impact of various policies on the state of the economy;

(f) submit a quarterly report to the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) on the state of the economy with special reference to economic growth, money supply, credit, balance of payments and price developments; and

(g) discharge such other functions as may necessary for formulating monetary policy and regulating the monetary system or as may be assigned by the Federal Government.

Monetary and Fiscal Policies Co-ordination Board 9B. (1) There shall be a Board for the co-ordination of fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policies, hereinafter to be called the co-ordination Board², consisting of:-

1.

Sec. 9A substituted w.e.f. 21-1-97 vide *Ordinance No. X of 1997². The word Co-ordination inserted w.e.f. 21-1-1997 vide * Ordinance No. X of 1997 * State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 1997 dated 31-5-97

(i) Federal Minister for Finance Chairman (ii) Federal Minister for Commerce¹ or Secretary, Ministry of Commerce Member (iii) Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission Member (iv) The Governor Member (v) Secretary, Finance Division, Government of Pakistan Member

(2) The Co-ordination² Board shall-

(a) ³co-ordinate fiscal, monetary and exchange-rate policies; (b) ⁴ensure consistency among macro-economic targets of growth, inflation and fiscal, monetary and external accounts: (c) ⁵meet for the purposes of clause (a) and (b) before the finalization of the budget to determine the extent of Government borrowing from commercial banks taking into account credit requirements of the private sector, liquidity expansion determined by the Central Board and expected changes in net foreign assets of the banking system; (d) ⁶meet on a quarterly basis to review the consistency of macro-economic policies and to revise limits and targets set at the time of the formulation of the budget, keeping in view the latest developments in the economy: (e) consider limits of the government borrowing as revised from time to time in the meetings to be held before and after passage of the annual budget; (f) review the level of Government borrowing in relation to the predetermined or revised targets after every quarter; and (g) review the expenditure incurred in connection with raising of loans and Government borrowing.

(3) The State Bank of Pakistan shall place before the Board – (a) relevant data relating to monetary expansion and Government borrowing; and (b) the assessment of the State Bank regarding the impact of economic policies of the government on monetary aggregates. (c) ⁷[OMITTED]

(4) The Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan shall, from time to time, bring to the notice of the Board the impact of monetary policy adopted by the State Bank on investment, growth and balance of payment.

(5) The Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan shall, from time to time, bring to the notice of the Board the impact of the monetary policy by the State Bank on imports and exports.

The words "or Secretary Ministry of Commerce" added w.e.f. 21-1-1997 vide* Ordinance No. X of 1997.

The word "Co-ordination" Inserted by *Ordinance No. X of 1997.

After the word monetary, the words "foreign trade" omitted vide *Ordinance No. X of 1997. Subs. vide* Ordinance No. X of 1997.

Omitted vide *Ordinance No. X of 1997.

* State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 1997 dated 31-5-97.

Governor and Deputy Governors

10. – (1) The Governor of the Bank shall be the chief executive officer and shall, on behalf of the Central Board, direct and control the whole affairs of the Bank.

(2) In the matters not specifically required by this Act or by regulations made thereunder, to be done by the Central Board or by the Bank in general meeting the Governor shall have authority to conduct the business, control the functions and manage the affairs of the Bank.

(3) Subject to the provision of sub-section (11) of this Section the Governor shall be appointed by the Federal Government for a term of three years and on such salary and terms and conditions of service as the Federal Government may determine, except that neither the salary of the Governor nor his other terms and conditions of service shall be varied to his disadvantage after is appointment:

Provided that no person shall hold the office of the Governor after attaining the age of sixty-five (65):

Provided further that the Governor be eligible for re-appointment for another term of three years;

Provided further that the Federal Government may appoint a Governor under this sub-section within one hundred and eighty days from the commencement of this Act."

(3A) At any time when the office of Governor is vacant, the Federal Government may appoint an Acting Governor:

Provided that the office of Governor shall be filled in within a period not exceeding three months.

(4) One or more Deputy Governors may be appointed by the Federal Government for such period (not exceeding five years) and on such salary and such terms and conditions of service as the Federal Government may determine, except that neither the salary of a Deputy Governor

nor his other terms and conditions of service shall be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

(5) A Deputy Governor shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Central Board, and shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the Central Board but shall have no right to vote.

(6) The Federal Government may require the Governor or a Deputy Governor to hold an office other than in the Bank, in which event the Governor or the Deputy Governor shall vacate his office, and the period during which he holds the other office shall not count towards his tenure of office as Governor or Deputy Governor as the case may be.

(7) The Governor and a Deputy Governor shall devote their whole time to the affairs of the Bank.

(8) The Governor or a Deputy Governor, as the case may be, may, in addition to his duties as the Governor or a Deputy Governor, be entrusted by an order of the Federal Government with such duties for such period as may be specified in the order.

(9) The Governor and a Deputy Governor shall on the expiry of their terms of office be eligible for reappointment.

No person shall hold office as Governor or a Deputy Governor:
who is a member of the Central or Provincial Legislature;

who is employed in any capacity in the public service of Pakistan or of any Province of Pakistan or holds any office or position for which any salary or other remuneration is payable out of public funds;

who is a director, officer or employee of any other bank or of a financial concern or has an interest as a shareholder in any other bank or financial concern; provided that nothing in this clause shall apply where the Governor or Deputy Governor is entrusted with additional duties under sub-section (8) above;

who has reached the age of sixty-five years: provided that a person appointed or re-appointed to be the Governor or a Deputy Governor who attains the age of sixty-five years before he has held office for a period of three years may, on such appointment or re-appointment hold office for a period not exceeding three years.

The Federal Government may grant leave to the Governor and a Deputy Governor for such period and on such terms and conditions as may be specified by the Federal Government.

(12) Where the Governor or a Deputy Governor during his term of office is incapacitated or is absent on deputation, leave or otherwise, the Federal Government may appoint any person qualified under sub-section (10) but who may not be qualified under clause (b) of that sub-section to act for the time being as the Governor or a Deputy Governor, as the case may be, in his place.

(13) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3), the Governor may designate a Deputy Governor to preside the meetings of the Central Board during his temporary absence.

Executive Committee

11.-(1) There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the Governor, Deputy Governor, if any, three Directors elected by the Central Board to represent respectively the areas specified in the Schedule and an officer appointed by the Federal Government to act as Member of the Executive Committee.

(2) Except when the Central Board is in session, the Executive Committee shall deal with and decide any matter within the competence of the Central Board.

Local Boards, their constitution and functions

12.- (1) A Local Board shall be constituted for each of the three areas specified in the Schedule and shall consist of -

- a. two Members elected in the manner prescribed by regulations made under this Act from amongst themselves by the shareholders registered on the register for that area; and
- b. not more than three Members nominated by the Federal Government.

(2) The Federal Government shall in exercising this power of nomination endeavour to secure representation of territorial or economic interests not already represented and in particular the representation of agricultural interest and the interest of co-operative banks.

(3) A Local Board shall advise the Central Board on such matters as may be generally or specifically referred to it, and shall perform such duties as the Central Board may, by regulations, delegate to it.

Qualifications and disqualifications of Directors and Members

13.- (1) No person shall be or shall continue to be a Director or Member-

- a. who is a Member of the Central or Provincial Legislature; or
- b. who is a salaried Government official; or
- c. who is, or at any time has been, adjudicated in a insolvent or has suspended payment or has compounded with his creditors; or
- d. who is found lunatic or becomes of unsound mind; or
- e. who is an officer or employee of any bank; or

f. who is a Director of any bank other than the Bank, but he shall not be disqualified or cease to be a Director if he is a Director of a bank who is a society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912 or any other law for the time being in force in Pakistan relating to co-operative societies; or

g. who is not, within six month from the date of his becoming a Director or Member, as the case may be, registered as a holder of unencumbered shares of the Bank of the nominal value of five hundred rupees;

h. who absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Central Board, or Local Board without leave from the central Board or Local Board as the case may be.

(2) Nothing in clause (b) and (g) of sub-section (1) shall apply to the Government Official nominated as a Director by the Federal Government.

(3) The Federal Government shall sell shares at par to a Director or Member nominated by it under Section 9 and 12, seeking to obtain the minimum shares qualification required under this Section, but no such share shall be disposed of by such Director or Member otherwise than by resale to the Federal Government at par, and the Federal Government shall have the right to order the transfer at par of all or any of such shares to itself, whereupon all or any of such shares shall be deemed to have been transferred to it.

Term of office of Directors and Members

14.-(1) The elected Directors and Members shall hold office for three years on the expiry of which they shall cease to hold office:

Provided that out of the first Directors appointed under sub-section (2) of section 9, through drawl of lots, two directors shall retire after one year, the other two shall retire after two years and the remaining three shall retire on completion of the full term of three years;

Provided further that the Federal Government may reconstitute the Board within one hundred and eighty days from the commencement of this Act.

(2) A Director or member shall not be removed from his office before the completion of his tenure except when he has done any act which is a breach of trust reposed in him or is guilty of misconduct:

Provided that he shall not be removed without a notice to show cause.

(3) Directors and Members shall on the expiry of their term of office be eligible for re-election or re-nomination, as the case may be.

14. (A) Bar to certain proceedings: No court shall have power to issue any injunction against, or otherwise to stay, the holding of an election under this Act for which notice has been issued by the appropriate officer of the Bank.

Removal from and vacation of office of the Governor, Deputy Governor, Director and Members.

15. (1) Subject to sub section (2), the Federal Government may remove the Governor from his office, if he becomes permanently incapable of performing his duties, or is subject to any of the disqualification specified in sub-section (10) of section 10, or has done any act which is breach of the trust reposed in him, or is guilty of misconduct:

Provided that before taking action under this sub-section, the Governor shall be given a notice to show cause and an opportunity of being heard.

(2) An elected Director or Member shall not be removed from his office except upon a resolution passed by the Central Board in that behalf by a majority of not less than six Directors.

(3) (a) The Governor, a Deputy Governor or a Director may resign his office by statement to that effect in writing signed by him and addressed to the Federal Government.

(b) A statement of resignation by a Deputy Governor or Director shall be addressed as above through the Governor.

(c) A Member may resign his office by a statement to that effect in writing signed by him and addressed to the Central Board.

(d) On the acceptance of such a resignation by the Federal Government or the Central Board, as the case may be, the office shall become vacant.

(4) Any Director or Member vacating office under this section shall not be eligible to become a Director or Member, as the case may be, until the expiry of the term of office for which he was nominated or elected.

(5) In the event of a vacancy occurring amongst the nominated Directors or Members, the Federal Government shall fill the vacancy by nominating another Director or member, as the case may be.

(6) In the event of a vacancy occurring amongst the elected Directors or Members before the expiry of their term of office, a new Director or Member, as the case may be, shall be elected for the remainder of the term by and from amongst the shareholders registered on the same register as that from which the vacating Director or Member was elected.

General and annual general meetings

16.-(1) The annual general meeting shall be held annually at Karachi, or a place in Pakistan where there is an office or branch of the Bank, within three months from the date on which the annual accounts of the Bank are closed.

(2) In the said meeting the shareholders present shall be entitled to discuss the annual accounts, the report of the Central Board on the working of the Bank throughout the year, and the auditors report on the annual balance sheet and accounts.

(3) A general meeting may be convened by the Central Board at any other time.

(4) Every shareholder shall be entitled to attend at any general meeting; and each shareholder who has been registered on a register maintained under Section 7 for a period of not less than six months ending with the date of the meeting, as holding five or more shares shall have one vote, and on a poll, each shareholder so registered shall, subject to a maximum of ten votes, have one vote for each five shares, and such votes may be exercised either personally or by proxy; but the Federal Government as a shareholder may appoint any authority or person to be present at any general meeting or annual general meeting in which event the restriction of the maximum of ten votes shall not apply to the authority or person so appointed.

CHAPTER IV BUSINESS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE BANK

Business which the bank may transact

17.-The Bank is authorised to carry on and transact the several kinds of business hereinafter specified, namely: -

The accepting of money on deposit from, and the collection of money for the Federal Government, the Provincial Government, Local Authorities, bank and other persons: provided that no interest shall be paid on deposits received from the Federal Government, a Provincial Government, or a Local Authority;

(a) The purchase, sale and rediscount of bills of exchange and promissory notes drawn on and payable in Pakistan and arising out of bonafide commercial or trade transactions bearing two or more good signatures one of which shall be that of a scheduled bank, and maturing within one hundred and eighty days from the date of such purchase or rediscount, exclusive of days of grace;

(b) The purchase, sale and rediscount of bills of exchange and promissory notes, drawn on and payable in Pakistan and bearing two or more good signatures one of which shall be that of a schedule bank and drawn or issued for the purpose of financing seasonal agricultural operations or the marketing of crops, and maturing within fifteen months from the date of such purchase or rediscount, exclusive of days of grace;

Explanation.- For the purposes of this sub-clause-

a. the expression "agricultural operations" includes animal husbandry and allied activities jointly undertaken with agricultural operations;

i. "Crops" include products or agricultural operations;

ii. the expression "marketing of crops" includes the processing of crops prior to marketing by agricultural producers or any organisation of such producers;

The purchase, sale and rediscount of bills of exchange and promissory notes drawn on and payable in Pakistan and bearing the signature of a scheduled bank, and issued or drawn for the purpose of holding or trading in securities of the Federal Government or a Provincial Government and maturing within ninety days from the date of such purchase or rediscount, exclusive of days of grace;

(d) The purchase, sale and rediscount of bills of exchange and promissory notes drawn and payable in Pakistan and bearing two or more good signatures one of which shall be that of scheduled bank, or any corporation approved by the Federal Government and having as one of its object the making of loans and advances in cash or kind, drawn and issued for financing the development of agriculture, or of agricultural or animal produce or the needs of industry, having maturities not exceeding twelve and a half years from the date of such purchase or rediscount:

Provided that the bank may from time to time issue to a corporation which may have dealings with the Bank under this sub-clause any directions which can be issued to a banking company under the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962) and in the event of anybody, while carrying out any direction hereunder, either wilfully making a false statement or wilfully omitting to make a material statement shall be punishable under sub-section (1) of Section 83 of the said Ordinance and in the event of any contravention or default in compliance with any direction, any Director or Officer who is knowingly a party to the contravention or default shall be punishable under sub-section (5) of Section 83 of the said Ordinance, and the provision of Section 84 of the said Ordinance shall apply to such proceedings as if such corporation were a banking company;

(e) The purchase, sale and rediscount of such debentures issued by a public Company or Corporation established by or under any law for the time being in force as the Bank may from time to time approve in this behalf;

(3) (a) The purchase and the sale of approved foreign exchange;

(b) The purchase, sale and rediscount of bills of exchange including treasury bills, drawn in or any place in countries whose currency has been declared as approved foreign exchange and maturing within one hundred and eighty days from the date of purchase, provided that no such purchase, sale or rediscount shall be made in Pakistan except with a scheduled bank;

(c) The keeping of balance with banks in countries whose currency has been declared as approved foreign exchange.

(4) The making to Local Authorities, scheduled bank or co-operative banks of advances and loans repayable on demand or on expiry of fixed periods not exceeding one hundred and eighty days against the security of-

(a) stocks, funds and securities, other than immovable property, in which a trustee is authorised to invest trust money by any law for the time being in force in Pakistan;

(b) gold or silver or documents of title to the same;

(c) such bills of exchange and promissory notes as are eligible for purchase or rediscount by the Bank; or otherwise fulfil the requirements of clause (2) but are payable on demand; and

(d) promissory notes of any scheduled bank supported by such modaraba certificates or participation term certificates as are acceptable to the bank or by documents of title relating to goods, such documents having been transferred, assigned or pledged to any such bank as

security for a loan or advance granted for bonafide commercial or trade transactions or for the purpose of financing seasonal agricultural operations or the marketing of crops;

(4A) The making of loans and advances out of the Industrial Credit Fund established under Section 17B for the purposes specified therein;

(4C) The making of loans and advances out of the Export Credit Fund established under Section 17C for the purposes specified therein;

5. The making to the Federal Government or Provincial Governments of advances repayable in each case not later than three months from the date of the making of the advance;

6. The making to institutions or banks, specially established for the purpose of promoting agricultural or industrial development, or for the financing of construction of houses, in the country or co-operative banks of advances and loans for such amounts and on such terms and conditions as the Central Board may decide from time to time;

(6A) As and when directed by the Federal Government, the purchase, holding and sale of shares and debentures of any banking company as defined in Section 5 of the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962) or any financing corporation or institution;

(6B) The providing of finances to scheduled banks or financing institutions on the basis of participation in profits and losses and on such other terms and conditions as the Central Board may decide from time to time;

7. The issue and purchase of telegraphic transfer, demand drafts and other kinds of remittances made payable at its own branches, offices or agencies;

8. The drawing, accepting, making and issue, on its own account or on account of the Federal Government, as the case may be, of any bill of exchange, hundi, promissory note or engagement for the payment within or without Pakistan, of Pakistan or foreign currency payable to bearer or to a banker on demand; but no such business shall be carried on or transacted without the previous approval of the Federal Government;

9. (a) Subject to sub-clause (b) the purchase and sale of securities of countries whose currency has been declared as approved foreign exchange with an unexpired currency of not more than ten years;

(b) The restrictions relating to maturity shall not apply to securities held by the Bank on the date on which this Act comes into force or any securities that may be received as assets under the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order 1947;

10. (a) The purchase and sale of securities of the Federal Government or a Provincial Government of any maturity or of such securities of a Local Authority as may be specified in this behalf by the Federal Government by notification in the Official Gazette on the recommendation of the Central Board;

(b) Securities, Debentures and Shares fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Federal Government shall be deemed for the purpose of this section to be securities of that Government;

(c) The amount of such securities held at any time in the Banking Department shall be so regulated that the total value of such securities shall not exceed the aggregate amount of the share capital of the Bank, the Reserve Fund and four fifths of the liabilities of the Banking Department in respect of deposits;

The custody of monies, securities, and other articles of value and the collection of the proceeds, whether principal or interest, profit, dividend or other return of any such securities;

The sale and realisation of all property, whether movable or immovable which may in any way come into the possession of the Bank in satisfaction, or part satisfaction of any of its claims;

The acting as agent to Federal Government, any Provincial Government, or any Local Authority in the transaction of any of the following kinds of business, namely:-
the purchase and sale of gold or silver or approved foreign exchange;

the purchase, sale, transfer and custody of bills of exchange, securities or shares in any company;

the collection of the proceeds, whether principal or interest, profit, dividend or other return, of any securities;

the remittance of such proceeds at the risk of the principal, by bills of exchange payable either in Pakistan or elsewhere;

the management of public debt; and

the transacting of special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund;
14. The purchase and sale of gold coin and gold or silver bullion;

15. The opening of an account with or the making of any agency arrangement with, and the acting as agent or correspondent of a bank incorporated in any country outside Pakistan or the principal currency authority of any country under the law for the time being in force in that country or any international or regional bank formed by such principal currency authorities, the investing of the funds of the bank in the shares and securities of any such international or regional bank; and the holding and transacting of special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund;

(16) (a) Subject to sub-clauses (b) and (c) the borrowing of money for the purpose of the business of the Bank, and the giving of security for money so borrowed.

(b) No money shall be borrowed under this sub-section from any person in Pakistan other than a scheduled bank or from any person outside Pakistan other than a bank which is the principal currency authority of any country under the law for the time being in force in that country;

(c) The total amount of borrowings from person in Pakistan shall not at any time exceed the amount of the share capital of the Bank;

(17) The making and issue of bank notes subject to the provisions of this Act;

(18) The exercise of powers and the performance of functions and duties entrusted to the Bank by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force;

(18A) The entering into clearing and payments arrangements with any country or group of countries, on a general or regional or sub-regional basis, participation in the formation and settlement of international payments transactions under such arrangements, and incurring financial and other obligations relating thereto;

(19) Establish credits and give guarantees; and

(20) Generally, the doing of all such matters and things as may be necessary, incidental to or consequential upon the exercise of its powers or the discharge of its duties of functions under this Act.

17A. – Rural Credit Fund -(1) The Bank shall establish and maintain a Fund to be called the Rural Credit Fund to which shall be credited–

(a) an initial sum of one crore of rupees to be specified by the Bank; and

(b) appropriations of such amount from the surplus profits of the Bank as may be determined by the Bank in consultation with the Federal Government.

(2) The Rural Credit Fund shall be applied by the Bank to the following objects, namely:-

(a) The making of medium-term loans and advances to co-operative banks, repayable on the expiry of a fixed period, not exceeding three years from the date of the making thereof, against such security as the Bank may from time to time, specify in this behalf:

(b) The making of medium-term and long-term loans and advances to rural credit agencies created or established by or under any law for the time being in force on such terms and conditions as the Bank may, from time to time, specify in this behalf;

(c) Where the Bank is satisfied that any co-operative bank of Section a loan or advance as is referred to in clause (4) to which a loan on advance as is referred to in clause (4) of Section 17 has been made is unable to repay the same in time, the converting of such loan or advance into a medium-term loan or advance, as the case may be in accordance with the provisions of clause (a);

(d) The making of short-term and medium-term loans and advances to scheduled banks as refinance against their loans and advances made for financing such agricultural operations as may be approved by the Bank from time to time.

Explanation: – For the purposes of this clause and section 17D, “agricultural operations” shall include improvement of land, procurement of agricultural inputs, agricultural machinery and other requirements of agriculture.

17B.- Industrial Credit Fund -(1) The Bank shall establish and maintain a Fund to be called the Industrial Credit Fund to which shall be credited -

(a) an initial sum of one crore of rupees to be subscribed by the Bank; and

(b) appropriations of such amount from the surplus profits of the Bank as may be determined by the Bank in consultation with the Federal Government.

(2) The Industrial Credit Fund shall be applied by the Bank to the following objects, namely:

(a) The making of medium-term and long-term loans and advances to co-operative banks and such institutions as the Bank may deem fit repayable on the expiry of a fixed period, not exceeding five years from the date of the making thereof, against such security as the Bank may, from time to time, specify in this behalf;

(b) The making of medium-term and long-term loans and advances to industrial credit agencies created or established by or under any law for the time being in force on such terms and conditions as the Bank may, from time to time, lay down in this behalf; and

(c) Where the Bank is satisfied any institution to which a loan or advance as is referred to in clause (4) of Section 17 has been made is unable to repay the same in time the converting of such loan or advance into a medium-terms on long terms loan or advance, as the case may be, in accordance with the provisions of clause (a); and

(d) The financing of a system of guarantees in accordance with rules to be made by the Bank to cover a portion, not exceeding twenty five per cent, of any bonafide loss that a scheduled bank is proved to the satisfaction of the Bank to have incurred in any transactions of medium-term or long-term loan to a party seeking to establish a new industrial project of small or medium size.

17C.- Export Credit Fund – (1) The Bank shall establish and maintain a Fund to be called the Export Credit Fund to which shall be credited–

(a) an initial sum of two crores of rupees to be subscribed by the Bank out of its surplus profits; and

(b) appropriations of such amount from the surplus profits of the Bank as may be determined by the Bank in consultation with the Federal Government.

(2) The Export Credit Fund shall be applied by the Bank to the following objects, namely:-

(a) The making of medium-term and long-term loans and advances to scheduled banks and other credit institutions credited or established by or under any law for the time being in force, as refinance against their medium-term and long-term loans and advances given for financing

exports from Pakistan, on such terms and conditions as to security and otherwise as the Bank may, from time to time, lay down in this behalf;

(b) The making of loans and advances, directly or through scheduled banks or other credit institutions created or established by or under any law for the time being in force, to private or Government sponsored institutions in foreign countries, for the purpose of enabling them to import goods from Pakistan, on such terms and conditions as the Bank may, from time to time, lay down in this behalf.

17D.- Loans Guarantee Fund- (1) The Bank shall establish and maintain a Fund to be called the Loans Guarantee Fund to which shall be credited—

(a) an initial sum of two crores of rupees to be subscribed by the bank out of its surplus profits; and

(b) appropriations of such amounts from the surplus profits of the bank as may be determined by the Bank in consultation with the Federal Government.

(2) The Loans Guarantee Fund shall be applied by the Bank to the financing of a system of guarantees in accordance with a Scheme to be made by the bank to cover a portion, not exceeding fifty per cent of any bonafide loss that a scheduled bank is proved, to the satisfaction of the Bank, to have incurred in any transaction of a loan or advance made for the financing of approved agricultural operations and such needs of such small borrowers as may be determined by the Bank from time to time.

17E. Housing Credit Fund-(1) The Bank shall establish and maintain a fund to be called the Housing Credit Fund to which shall be credited:-

(a) an initial sum of five crores of rupees to be subscribed by the Bank; and (b) appropriations of such amount from the profits of the Bank as may be determined by the Bank in consultation with the Federal Government.

(2) The Housing Credit Fund shall be applied by the Bank to the following objects, namely:-

(a) the making of medium-term and long-term loans and advances to scheduled banks and other financing institutions, especially created or established by or under any law for the time being in fore for the financing of construction of house, as refinance against their medium-term and long-term loans and advances given for—

(i) Financing construction or purchase of houses of for purchase or development of land on which houses are to be constructed or for repair or reconstruction of house damaged by natural calamities; and

(ii) undertaking housing projects, including acquisition of land, planning and development of sites and construction of house for disposal by sale on such terms and conditions as to security and other matters as the Bank may from time to time lay down in this behalf; and

(b) the purchase, holding or sale of debentures of financing institutions especially created or established by or under any law for the time being in force for the purpose of housing development.

17F. Contributions and donations by the Bank. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Bank may contribute or donate funds to a body corporate in Pakistan for the study or promotion of, or research in, banking, economics and allied subjects.

Power of Direct Discount

18.- (1) Where, in the opinion of the Central Board or of the Governor, circumstances so warrant, the Bank may, notwithstanding any limitation contained in sub-clauses (a) and (b) of clause (2) or sub-clause (a) and (b) of clause (3) or clause (4) of Section 17-

(a) purchase, sell or discount any of the bills of exchange or promissory notes specified in sub-clause (a) or sub-clause (b) of clause (2) or sub-clause (b) of clause (3) of Section 17, though such bill or promissory note does not bear the signature of a scheduled bank; or (b) make advances or loans repayable on demand or on the expiry of fixed period not exceeding one hundred and eighty days against the various forms of security specified in clause (4) of Section 17 or against the security of goods or when the advance or loan is made to a banking company against such other form of security as the Bank may consider sufficient.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 230 of the Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913), and section 58 of the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962), where a banking company, to which an advance or loan has been made under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of this Section, is wound up, any sum due to the Bank in respect of such advance or loan shall, subject only to the claims, if any, of any other banking company in respect of any prior claim or advance made by such banking company against any security, be first charge on the assets of the banking company.

Decoration of approved foreign exchange

29. On the recommendation of the Central Board, the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare the currency of any country or any monetary unit of account to be approved foreign exchange for all or any of the purposes of this Act.

Business which the Bank may not transact

20.- The Bank not, except as authorised under this Act-

(1) engage in trade or otherwise have a direct interest in any commercial, industrial or other undertaking except such interest as it may in any way acquire in the course of the satisfaction of any of its claims, but all such interest shall be disposed of at the earliest possible moment;

(2) purchase its own share or the share of any other bank or of any company, or grant advances or loans upon the security of any such shares;

(3) advance money on the mortgage, or otherwise on the security, of immovable property or documents of title relating thereto, except where such advance is made to any of its officer or servants for building a house for his personal use against the security of the said house;

(3A) become the owner of any immovable property except where ownership is necessary for the use of such property by the Bank, or for the residence, recreation or welfare of its officers or servants;

(4) make unsecured advances and loans;

(5) draw or accept bills payable otherwise on demand; and

(6) allow interest or return in any other form on deposits on current account.

Government business

21.- (1) The Bank shall undertake to accept moneys for account of the Federal Government and Provincial Governments and to make payments up to the amount standing to the credit of their accounts respectively and to carry out their exchange, remittance and other banking operations including the management of public debt.

(2) (a) The Federal Government and Provincial Governments shall entrust the Bank, on such conditions as may be agreed upon between the Government concerned and the Bank, with all their money, remittance, and banking transactions in Pakistan, and, in particular, shall deposit free of interest all their cash balances with the bank.

(b) Nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to prevent the Federal Government and any Provincial Government from carrying on money transactions, at places where the Bank has no office, branch or agency or from holding at such places such balances as they may require.

(c) The Federal Government and each Provincial Government shall entrust the Bank, on such conditions as may be agreed upon between the Government concerned and the Bank, with the management of the public debt and with the issue of any new loans.

(3) In the event of any failure to reach agreement on the conditions referred to in this section, the Federal Government shall decide the conditions and its decision shall be final.

Bank Rate

22.- Bank Rate and interest free loans and advances. – (1) The Bank shall make public from time to time the standard rate at which it is prepared to buy or re-discount bills of exchange or other commercial paper eligible for purchase on the basis of interest under this Act.

(2) In respect of finance provided by the Bank on basis other than interest, it may determine, from time to time, and conditions either generally or specifically.

Purchase and Sale of Foreign Exchange

23.- The Bank may buy from or sell to any person, whether in Pakistan or abroad, approved foreign exchange at such rates of exchange at such places, and on such conditions, as it may determine from time to time. (vide Accounts Department's Circular No. 8 dated the August 04, 1999)

Explanation:- In this section "authorised dealer" means a person for the time being authorised under Section 3 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947, to deal in foreign exchange.

Sole right to issue Bank Notes

24.- (1) The Bank shall have the sole right to issue Bank Notes made payable to bearer on demand in Pakistan in accordance with the provisions hereinafter made, provided that the currency notes of the Government of Pakistan supplied to the Bank by the Government may be issued by it for a period which shall be fixed by the Federal Government on the recommendations of the Central Board.

(2) Any person contravening this authority or committing any other offence specified in Section 35, shall be liable to the penalties therein mentioned.

Legal Tender

25.- (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) every Bank Note shall be legal tender at any place in Pakistan for the amount expressed therein and shall be guaranteed by the Federal Government.

(2) On the recommendation of the Central Board the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare that, series of Bank Notes of any denominations shall cease to be legal tender and exchangeable:

Provided that any Note of such series may, within such period after the date so specified as the Federal Government may, by a like notification, appoint in this behalf, be tendered for exchange at such offices, branches and agencies, if any, of the Bank as may be specified for the purpose, and any such office, branch or agency shall exchange the note.

Issue Department

26.- (1) The issue of Bank Notes shall be conducted by the Bank in an Issue Department which shall be separated and kept wholly distinct from the Banking Department and the assets of the Issued Department shall not be subject to any liability other than the liabilities of the Issue Department as hereinafter defined in Section 32.

(2) The Issue Department shall not issue Bank Notes to the Banking Department or to any person except in exchange for other Bank Notes or for such coin, bullion, special drawing rights held with the International Monetary Fund, approved foreign exchange or securities as are permitted under this Act to form part of the assets of the Issue Department.

Denominations and form of Bank Notes

27.- Bank Notes made and issued by the Bank shall be in such denominations and of such design, form and material as may be approved by the Federal Government on the recommendations of the Central Board.

Re-issue of Notes

28.- The Bank shall not re-issue Bank Notes which are torn, defaced or excessively soiled.

Lost, Stolen, mutilated or Imperfect notes

29.- Notwithstanding anything contained in any enactment or rule of law to the contrary, no person shall as of right be entitled to recover from the Federal Government or the Bank the value of any lost, stolen, mutilated or imperfect Bank Note.

Assets of the Issue Department

30.- (1) The assets of the Issue Department shall not be less than the total of its liabilities and shall be maintained as follows:-

(a) of the total amount of the assets, assets of such value as the Federal Government in consultation with the Bank, may, by notification in the official Gazette, specify shall be held in gold coins, gold bullion, silver bullion, special drawing rights held with the International Monetary Fund or approved foreign exchange; and

(b) the remainder of the assets shall be held in-

(i) rupee coins;

(ii) rupee securities of any maturity;

(iii) such bills of exchange and promissory notes payable in Pakistan as are eligible for purchase by the Bank under sub-clauses (a), (b) and (d) of clause (2) of Section 17;

(iv) Promissory notes obtained by the Bank in respect of advances and loans made under clause (4) of Section 17 against such securities as are mentioned in sub-clauses (a) and (b) of that clause; and

(v) Promissory notes obtained by the Bank in respect of advances and loans made under clause (6) of Section 17:

Provided that the assets falling to the share of the Government of Pakistan under the provision of Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947, which are held by the Reserve Bank of India pending their physical transfer to the Bank shall form a part of the assets.

(2) For the purpose of this section, gold coin and gold bullion shall be valued at the market value of the fine gold content thereof, silver bullion shall be valued at the market value of the

fine silver content thereof, rupee coin shall be valued at its face value and rupee securities and securities specified in clause (4) shall be valued at the market rate for the time being obtaining.

(3) Of the gold coin and gold or silver bullion held as assets not less than seventeen-twentieths shall be held in the custody of the Bank including its branches, offices or agencies, and the gold or silver belonging to the Bank which is in any other bank or in any mint or treasury or in transit may be reckoned as part of the assets.

(4) For the purposes of this section, the approved foreign exchange which may be held as part of the assets shall be in any of the following forms, namely:-

(a) balances standing to the credit of the Bank with the principal currency authority of a country whose currency is an approved foreign exchange, or at any bank in such country; (b) bills of exchange bearing two or more good signatures having a maturity not exceeding one hundred and eighty days and drawn on and payable at any place in a country whose currency is an approved foreign exchange; and (c) securities of a Government with an unexpired currency of not more than five years and payable in a currency which is an approved foreign exchange.

(5) Restrictions relating to maturity shall not apply to securities mentioned in clause (4) held by the Bank on the date on which this Act comes into force or any securities that may be received as assets under the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947.

Suspensions of Assets requirements

31.- Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provision, the Bank, may with the previous sanction of the Federal Government, for periods not exceeding thirty days in the first instance, which may with the like sanction be extended from time to time by which may with the like sanction be extended from time to time by periods not exceeding fifteen days, hold as assets gold coin, gold or silver bullion, special drawing rights held with the International Monetary Fund, or approved foreign exchange of less aggregate amount than that required by paragraph (a) of sub-section (1) of Section 30.

32.- (1) The liabilities of the Issue Department shall be an amount equal to the total of the amount of the Bank Notes for the time being in circulation.

(2) For the purposes of this section any Bank Note which has not been presented for payment within forty years from the first day of July following the date of its issue shall be deemed not to be in circulation and the value thereof shall notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) of Section 26 be paid by the Issue Department to the Banking Department; but any such Bank note if subsequently presented for payment, shall be paid by the Banking Department.

Obligation to supply different forms of currency

33.- (1) The Bank shall issue rupee coin on demand in exchange for Bank Notes and Bank Notes on demand in exchange for coin which is legal tender under the Pakistan Coinage Act.

(2) The Bank shall in exchange for Bank Notes for five rupees or upwards supply Bank Notes of lower value or coins which are legal tender under the said Pakistan Coinage Act, in such

quantities as may in the opinion of the Bank be required for circulation. The Federal Government shall supply such coins to the Bank on demand and if it fails to do so at any time the Bank shall be released during the period of such failure from obligation to supply them to the public.

(3) The Federal Government shall take over from the Bank at such times and in such quantities as the Bank may, with the previous approval of the Federal Government, determine rupee coins which are not required for purposes of circulation against payment.

Obligation of the Federal Government in respect of rupee coin

34.- The Federal Government shall not re-issue any rupee coins taken over under sub-section (3) of Section 33 nor put into circulation any rupee coin except through the Bank and the Bank shall not dispose of rupee coin otherwise than for purposes of circulation or by delivery to the Federal Government under the preceding section.

Offences and penalties relating to unauthorized issue of Bills and Bank Notes

35.-(1) No person in Pakistan other than the Bank or as expressly authorised by this Act, the Federal Government shall draw, accept, make or issue any Bill of Exchange, Hundi, Promissory Note or engagement for the payment of money payable to bearer on demand, or borrow, owe or take up any sum or sums of money on the Bills, Hundis or Notes payable to bearer on demand of any such persons, but such Cheques or Drafts, including Hundi, payable to bearer on demand or otherwise may be drawn on a person's account with a banker, shroff or agent.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, no person in Pakistan other than the Bank, or as expressly authorised by this Act, the Federal Government shall make or issue any Promissory Note expressed to be payable to the bearer of the instrument.

(3) Any person contravening the provision of this Section shall be punishable upon conviction with fine which may extend to double the amount of the Bill, Hundi, Promissory Note or engagement in respect whereof the offence is committed.

(4) No prosecution under this section shall be instituted except on complaint made on behalf of the Bank.

Cash Reserve of Scheduled Banks to be kept with the Bank

36.-(1) Every scheduled bank shall maintain with the Bank a balance the amount of which shall not at the close of business on any day be less than such percentage of demand liabilities and that of the time liabilities of such bank in Pakistan as may be determined by the State Bank.

(2) The requirements of this section as to the maintenance of balances in the Bank may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, be varied or, for such period and subject to such conditions as may be specified in the notification, be dispensed with by the Federal Government.

Explanation:- For, the purposes of this section liabilities shall not include the paid-up capital or the reserve, or any credit balance in the profit and loss account of such bank or the amount of any loan taken from the Bank or the amount received as loan in Pakistan currency by such bank from the Federal Government whether out of a foreign currency loan contracted by the Government or otherwise or the amount of foreign currency loans obtained by such bank directly from any foreign agency.

(3) Every scheduled bank shall send to the Bank returns signed by two responsible officers of such bank containing such information as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the purposes and object of this Act at such periods of time as the Bank may from time to time direct.

(4) If at the close of business on any day before the day fixed for the net return under the preceding sub-section, the balance held at the Bank by any scheduled bank is below the minimum fixed by sub-section (1) or varied under sub-section (2), such scheduled bank may be ordered by the Bank to pay to the Bank-

(a) in the case of its liabilities assumed on basis other than profit and loss sharing, in respect of such day penal interest at a rate three per cent above the bank rate on the amount by which the balance with the Bank falls short of the fixed minimum, and if on the day on which the next return is due such balance is still below the fixed minimum as disclosed by this return, the rate of penal interest may be increased to a rate five per cent above the bank rate in respect of that day and each subsequent day on which the balance held at the Bank at the close of business on the day is below the fixed minimum; and

(b) in the case of its liabilities assumed on the basis of profit and loss sharing, in respect of such day a penalty at a rate that may be prescribed by the Bank from time to time on the amount by which the balance with the Bank falls short of the fixed minimum, and if on the day on which the next return is due such balance is still below the fixed minimum as disclosed by this return, the penalty may be increased by twenty-five per cent in respect of that day and each subsequent day on which the balance held at the bank at the close of business on the day is below the fixed minimum.

(5) When under the provisions of sub-Section (4) penalty at the higher rate has become payable by a scheduled bank, if thereafter on the day fixed for the next return under sub-Section (3) the balance held at the Bank is still below the fixed minimum as disclosed by this return-

(a) every director and officer of the scheduled bank, who is knowingly and wilfully a party to the default, shall by order of the Bank be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees and with a further fine which may extend to five hundred rupees and with a further fine which may extend to five hundred rupees for each subsequent day on which the default continues; and

(b) the Bank may prohibit the scheduled bank from receiving after the said day any fresh deposit, and if default is made by the scheduled bank in complying with such prohibition, every director and officer of the scheduled bank who is knowingly and wilfully a party to such default or who through negligence or otherwise contributes to such default shall by order of the Bank be punishable in respect of each default with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees for

each day after the first on which a deposit received in contravention of such prohibition is retained by the scheduled bank.

Explanation:- In this sub-section "officer" includes Manager, Secretary, Branch Manager and Branch Secretary.

(6) Any scheduled bank failing to comply with the provisions of sub-Section (3) shall by order of the Bank be liable to pay to the Bank a penalty of one hundred rupees for each day during which the failure continues.

(7) Whoever in any return under this Section willfully or recklessly makes a statement false in any material particular or wilfully or recklessly omits to state a material particular shall by order of the Bank be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees in respect of each such return.

(8) The penalties imposed by sub-Section (4), (5), (6) and (7) shall be payable on demand made by the Bank and in the event of refusal by the defaulting bank, director or officer to pay on such demand, may be levied by a direction of the principal Civil Court having jurisdiction in the area where an office of the defaulting bank is situated, such direction being made only upon application made in this behalf to the Court by the Bank, with the previous sanction of the Federal Government.

Scheduled Banks

37.- (1) The Bank shall maintain at all its offices and branches an up-to-date list of banks declared by it to be scheduled banks under Clause (a) of sub-section (2).

(3) The Bank shall, by notification, in the official Gazette-

(a) declare any bank to be scheduled bank which is carrying on the business of banking in Pakistan and which-

(i) is a banking company as defined in Section 227F of the Companies Act, 1913, or a Co-operative bank, or a corporation or a company incorporated by or established under any law in force in any place in or outside Pakistan.

(ii) has a paid-up capital and reserves of an aggregate value of not less than five lakhs of rupees;

Provided that in the case of a co-operative bank, an exception may be made by the Bank;

(iii) satisfies the Bank that its affairs are not being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of its depositors;

(b) direct the descheduling of any scheduled bank which ceases to fulfil the requirements mentioned in clause (a) or goes into liquidation or otherwise wholly or partly ceases to carry on banking business:

Provided that the Bank may, on application of the scheduled bank concerned and subject to such conditions, if any, as it may impose, defer the making of a direction under clause (b) for such period as the Bank considers reasonable to give the scheduled bank an opportunity of fulfilling the requirements mentioned in sub-clauses (ii) and (iii) of clause (a);

(c) alter the description in the list of scheduled banks whenever any scheduled bank changes its name.

Explanation:- In sub-Section (2) the expression "value" means the real exchangeable and not the nominal value of the capital and reserves and the valuation made by the Bank shall be final

Power to require returns from Corporations

38.-The Bank may require any Corporation with which it has any transaction under Section 17 to furnish returns referred to in under sub section (3) of Section 36, and if it does so require, the provisions of sub-Section (6), (7) and (8) of Section 36 shall apply, so far as may be, to such Corporation as if it were a scheduled bank.

Publication of consolidated statement by the Bank

39.- The Bank shall compile and publish in such manner and at such times as the Federal Government may direct, a consolidated statement from such information as may be received under this Act.

Returns

40.- (1) The Bank shall prepare and transmit to the Federal Government a weekly account of the Issue Department and of the Banking Department in such form as the Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette direct. The Federal Government shall cause these accounts to be published weekly in the official Gazette.

(2) The Bank shall also, within four months from the date on which the annual accounts of the Bank are closed, release to the public and simultaneously transmit to the Federal Government a copy of the annual accounts signed by the Governor, the Deputy Governor, if any, and the Chief Accounting Officer of the Bank, and certified by the Auditors together with a report by the Central Board on the working of the Bank throughout the year, and the Federal Government shall cause such accounts and report to be published in the official Gazette.

(3) The Bank shall also, within two months from the date on which the annual accounts of the Bank are closed, transmit to the Federal Government a statement showing the name, address and occupation of, and the number of shares held by each shareholder of the Bank.

CHAPTER V
GENERAL

Contribution by the Federal Government to the Reserve Fund

41.-Reserve Fund- The securities of the value of three crores of rupees contributed by the Federal Government for the purpose shall be held by the Bank as part of its Reserve Fund

which may also receive such appropriation out of the annual profits as the Bank may, with the prior approval of the Federal Government, from time to time decide.

Allocation of surplus

42.-After making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, contributions to staff and superannuation funds, and such other contingencies as are usually provided for by bankers, there shall be paid to the shareholders out of the net annual profits a dividend on the shares at a rate to be fixed by the Federal Government from time to time. Any surplus remaining thereafter shall be paid to the Federal Government.

Auditors

43.- (1) Not less than two Auditors shall be elected and their remuneration fixed at the annual general meeting. The Auditors may be shareholders, but no Director, Member or other Officer of the Bank shall be eligible during his continuance in office to be so elected. Any Auditors so elected shall be eligible for re-election on vacating office.

(2) All Auditors elected under this section shall be and continue to act as Auditors until the first annual general meeting after their respective elections.

(3) Any casual vacancy in the office of any Auditor elected under this section may be filled by the Central Board.

Government Auditors

44.-Without prejudice to anything contained in Section 43 the Federal Government may any time appoint the Auditor-General or such Auditors as it thinks fit to examine and report upon the accounts of the Bank.

Power and duties of Auditors

45.- (1) Every Auditors shall be supplied with a copy of the annual balance-sheet and it shall be his duty to examine the same together with the accounts and vouchers relating thereto; and every Auditor shall have a list delivered to him of all books kept by the Bank, and shall at all reasonable time have access to books, accounts and other documents of the Bank, if appointed by it, or at the expense of the Federal Government if appointed by that Government employ Accountants or other persons to assist him in investigating such accounts and may, in relation to such accounts, examine any Director or Officer of the Bank.

(2) The Auditors shall make a report to the shareholders or to the Federal Government, as the case may be, upon the annual Balance Sheet and accounts, and in any such report they shall state whether in their opinion the Balance Sheet is a full and fair Balance Sheet containing all necessary particulars and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Bank, and, in case they have called for any explanation or information from the Central Board, whether it has been given and whether it is satisfactory. Any such report made to the shareholders shall be read, together with the report of the Central Board, at the annual general meeting.

The Bank and its officers to be public officers

46.- (1) For the purposes of Section 124 of the Evidence Act, 1872, the provisions of Part IV of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 and the provisions of rule 27 of Order V, and rule 52 of Order XXI of the said Code, the Bank and any person in the service of the bank acting in his capacity as such shall be deemed to be public officer.

(2) The provisions of Section 123 of the Evidence Act shall apply to the unpublished records of the Bank and the Governor shall be deemed to be the officer or head of the department concerned.

(3) Every person in the service of the Bank shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of section 21 of the Pakistan Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860).

46.A-Production of unpublished record of bank, etc.(1) no court tribunal or other authority shall be entitled to compel the bank or any person in the service of the bank to produce or, as the case may be, give any evidence derived from, any unpublished record of the bank.

(2) No court, tribunal or other authority shall permit any one to produce or give evidence derived from, any unpublished record of the Bank, except with the prior permission in writing of the Governor who may give or withhold such permission as he thinks fit.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, a report prepared by the Bank on a banking company under Section 40 of the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962), shall be deemed to be unpublished for the purposes of sub-section (1) and (2) even if a copy of such report has been supplied to the banking company to which the report pertains or to the Federal Government or to the Pakistan Banking Council constituted under Section 9 of the Banks (Nationalisation) Act, 1974 (Act XIX of 1974).

146B.-Inconsistent directives not be issued.- No. governmental or quasi governmental body or agency shall issue any directive, directly or indirectly, to any banking company or any other financial institution regulated by the Bank which is inconsistent with the policies, regulations and directives issued by the Bank pursuant to this Act, the Banking Companies Ordinance, 1962 (LVII of 1962) or any other law in force.

Pensions of Bank employees to be exempt from attachments, etc.

47.-Notwithstanding anything continued in any law for the time being in force pension granted by the Bank to its officers and servants shall be liable to seizure, attachment or sequestration by process of any Court in Pakistan at the instance of a creditor, for any demand against the pensioner or in satisfaction of a decree or order of any such Court.

Exemption from Stamp Duty

48.-The Bank shall not be liable to the payment of any Stamp Duty under the Stamp Act, 1899.

Exemptions from income-tax, supertax and business profits-tax and Provision for deductions at source of income-tax on dividends.

49.-Exemption from business profits-tax, gift-tax, wealth-tax, income-tax and super-tax.- Notwithstanding anything contained in the Business Profits- Tax Act, 1947 (XXI of 1947), the Gift-tax Act, 1963 (XIV of 1963), the Wealth-tax Act, 1963 (XV of 1963), the Income tax Ordinance, 1979 (XXXI of 1979), or any other law for the time being in force in Pakistan relating to business profits-tax, gift-tax, wealth-tax, income-tax or super-tax, the Bank shall not be liable to pay business profits-tax, gift-tax, wealth-tax, income-tax, super-tax on any of its profits, gains, wealth or income or any gifts made by it.

1 Inserted vide *Ordinance No. X of 1997. * State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Act, 1997 dated 31-5-97.

Liquidation of the Bank.

50.-The Bank shall not be placed in liquidation save be order of the Federal Government and in such manner and on such terms and conditions as it may direct.

Act or proceeding of the Central Board not to be questioned

51.-No act or proceeding of the Central Board or a Local Board shall be questioned on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in or any defect in the constitution of such Board.

Powers of Government to supersede the Central Board

52.-(1) If in the opinion of the Federal Government, the Bank fails to carry out any of the obligations imposed on it by or under this Act the Federal Government may by notification in the official Gazette declare the Central Board to be superseded, and thereafter the general superintendence and direction of the affairs of the Bank shall be entrusted to such agency as the Federal Government may determine and such agency may exercise the power and do all acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Central Board under this Act.

(2) When action is taken under sub-section (1) the Federal Government shall cause a full report of the circumstances leading to such action and of the action taken to be laid before the Central Legislature at the earliest possible opportunity and in any case within three weeks of the re-assembly thereof after the issue of the notification superseding the Central Board.

Duty of officers and servants to maintain secrecy.

53.-(1) Except in the performance of his duties under this Act every officer or servant of the Bank shall preserve and aid in preserving secrecy with regard to all matters relating to the affairs of the Bank not published by it and with regard to all matters relating to the financial or monetary affairs of any institution, person, body of persons, any Government or authority whether in Pakistan or outside that may come to his knowledge in the performance of his duties.

(2) Every such officer or servant who communicates any such matter, except when required by law to do so or in the discharge of his duty as such, shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to Rs. 500 or with both.

(3) No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this section except upon complaint in writing by person authorised in this behalf by the Governor.

Power of the Central Board to make regulations

54.-(1) The Central Board may make regulations consistent with this Act to provide for all matters for which provision is necessary or convenient for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Act:

Provided that the terms and conditions of service of Government and Deputy Governor shall be determined by the Federal Government.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, such regulations may provide for all any of the following matters, namely:-

(a) the manner of holding and conducting of elections under this Act, the votes of shareholders and the manner in which they may exercise by shareholders at such elections;

(b) the final decision of doubts or disputes regarding the qualifications or candidates for election or regarding the validity of elections;

(c) the maintenance of the share registers, the manner in which and the conditions subject to which shares may be held and transferred, suspension and the manner of suspension of transfer of shares from one register to another and generally, all matters relating to the rights and duties of shareholders;

(d) the manner in which general meetings and annual general meetings shall be convened and held, their quorum, the procedure to be followed thereat, votes of the shareholders and the manner in which they may be exercised;

(e) the manner in which notices may be served on behalf of the bank upon shareholders or other persons;

(f) the manner in which meetings of the Central Board, Executive Committee and Local Board and committees of the Central and Local Boards shall be convened and held, their quorum, the procedure to be followed at such meetings, votes of Directors and Members and the manner in which they may be exercised and the appointment and election of Chairman of such meetings except as otherwise provided by this Act;

(g) the conduct of business of the Executive Committee and Local Board and the delegation of powers and functions to Local Boards;

(h) the delegation of powers and functions of the Central Board, the Governor, Deputy Governor, Directors, or Officers of the Bank;

(i) the formation of committees of the Central Board, their supervisions by the Central Board, and the conduct of business in such committees;

(j) recruitment of officers and servants of the Bank including the terms and conditions of their service, constitution of superannuation, beneficial and other funds, with or without bank's contribution, for the officers and servants of the Banks; their welfare; providing amenities, medical facilities, grant of loans and advances, their betterment and uplift;

(k) the manner and form in which contracts binding on the bank may be executed;

(l) the provision of an official seal of the Bank and the manner and effect of its use;

(m) the manner and forms in which the balance-sheet of the Bank shall be drawn up, and in which the accounts shall be maintained;

(n) the remuneration of Directors and Members;

(o) the relations of the scheduled banks with the Bank and the returns to be submitted by the Scheduled banks to the Bank;

(p) the regulations of clearing house for the scheduled banks;

(q) the circumstances in which, and the conditions and limitations subject to which, the value of any lost, stolen, mutilated or imperfect Bank Note may be refunded as of grace;

(r) the denomination, form, issue, negotiability, encashment and repatriation of the instruments mentioned in clause (8) of Section 17;

(s) notice of trust; and

(t) generally for making any provision necessary of convenient for the conduct of the business, discharge of functions and for purposes of management of the Bank.

(3) Copies of all regulations made under this section shall be available to the public on payment.

54.A-Provisions to override other laws- This Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force or any agreement, contract, memorandum or articles of association.

54B.- Removal of difficulties.- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act the Federal Government may make such order as may appear to it to be necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

XVII OF 1955

Repeal

55.-(1) The State Bank of Pakistan Ordinance, 1955, is hereby repealed.

(2) Any rules or regulations made, order passed, notification issued, thing done, action taken or proceedings commenced under any of the provisions of the State Bank of Pakistan Ordinance, 1955, or deemed to have been so made, passed issued, done taken or commenced, shall continue in force and be deemed to have been made, or as the case may be, passed, issued, done, taken or commenced under the corresponding provision of this Act.